

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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SUBJECT: POLISH INTEREST IN LANDSAT PROGRAM

REF: WARSAW 5328

1. RE PARA SIX REFTTEL, EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT POSSIBILITY OF POLISH LANDSAT STATION WAS DISCUSSED DURING MEETING WITH POLISH SCICOUNS AND SCIATT AT NASA HEADQUARTERS 9 JUNE 76. DURING DISCUSSION NASA ENCOURAGED POLISH EMBOFFS TO SEEK ARRANGEMENT WITH ITALIAN LANDSAT STATION OPERATOR, TELESPAZIO, SINCE A POLISH STATION WOULD MOSTLY DUPLICATE COVERAGE ALREADY AVAILABLE FROM ITALY AS WELL AS THAT OF A PLANNED SCANDINAVIAN LANDSAT STATION. IN ADDITION NASA NOTED THAT BASED UPON EXPERIENCES OF PRESENT STATION OPERATORS, LANDSAT RECEIVING AND PROCESSING FACILITIES WOULD COST 4-5 MILLION DOLLARS TO CONSTRUCT AND 1-2

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MILLION DOLLARS TO OPERATE ANNUALLY. AN ARRANGEMENT FOR

THE SUPPLY OF DATA RECEIVED AT THE ITALIAN STATION WOULD BE FAR MORE ECONOMICAL AND COULD BE IMPLEMENTED MUCH SOONER THAN A GROUND STATION.

2. RESOLUTION AND DISTORTION OF LANDSAT DATA RELATE TO CAPABILITIES OF THE LANDSAT SATELLITES THEMSELVES. THESE CHARACTERISTICS CANNOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED THROUGH THE OPERATION OF A DIRECT RECEIVING STATION.

3. DISCREPANCY BETWEEN COST OF LANDSAT DATA FROM US DISTRIBUTION CENTER (USGS'S EROS DATA CENTER IN SIOUX FALLS, SD) AND ITALY'S TELESPAZIO FACILITIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FROM FOLLOWING STANDPOINTS:

--TELESPAZIO'S PRICES VARY GREATLY DEPENDING UPON WHETHER ONE LANDSAT SCENE IS REQUESTED OR USER MAKES ARRANGEMENT FOR CONTINUING SUPPLY OF LANDSAT DATA (AS FRENCH HAVE DONE WITH ITALIANS).

--DURING EARLY PHASE OF LANDSAT PROGRAM, US DATA SALES PRICES WERE BASED ONLY UPON REPRODUCTION COSTS. NASA BELIEVES THAT THE DATA PRICES SHOULD BEGIN TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COST OF DATA COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND STORAGE. NASA EXPECTS THAT DURING NEXT SEVERAL YEARS EROS' PRICES WILL INCREASINGLY REFLECT THIS VIEW.

--MOST FOREIGN STATION OPERATORS HAVE ESTABLISHED THEIR DATA PRICES WITH CONSIDERATION SIMILAR TO NASA'S IN MIND. IN ADDITION, NASA IS ASKING EACH STATION OPERATOR TO SHARE COST OF SATELLITE OPERATIONS BY PAYING AN ACCESS FEE OF 200,000 DOLLARS PER STATION PER YEAR.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, NASA BELIEVES GOP SHOULD CAREFULLY EXPLORE ARRANGEMENT WITH TELESPAZIO FOR SUPPLY OF DATA PRODUCTS BEFORE GIVING FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO LANDSAT GROUND STATION. KISSINGER

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